

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An egress channel, comprising:

a line level selection unit that selects signals from a backplane, said line level selection unit having a clock that times egress time slots associated with an egress network line coupled to said egress channel, said egress channel having primary protection group table that correlates said egress time slots to a protection group for each ingress signal used to fill said egress time slots, said protection group table having an output coupled to a channel select input of a first multiplexer, said first multiplexer having input values that reflect the status of each said protection group for each said ingress signal, said first multiplexer having an output coupled to a channel select input of a second multiplexer, said second multiplexer receiving a plurality of inputs from a plurality of tables that indicate where an ingress signal may be found on said backplane.